

I CLAIM:

1. A harness suitable for reducing systemic losses in ductal lavage procedures, the harness comprising:  
a base member having a first surface and a second surface and a through aperture sized to receive a human breast therethrough; and  
a breast stabilizer integral with the base member and surrounding the through aperture for radially compressing at least a portion of the breast received in the through aperture.
2. The harness of claim 1, wherein the base member comprises a torso band suitable for enveloping and securement about a torso of a human female patient, the torso band having a first end portion and a second end portion.
3. The harness of claim 2, wherein the first end portion of the torso band is engageable with the second end portion of the torso band.
4. The harness of claim 3, wherein the first end portion of the torso band is engageable with the second end portion of the torso band via engagement between the first surface and the second surface.
5. The harness of claim 4, wherein at least a portion of the second surface includes a web of entangled fibers and at least a portion of the first surface includes a plurality of flexible hooks, the plurality of flexible hooks being engageable with the web of entangled fibers.
6. The harness of claim 1, wherein the breast stabilizer is unitary with the base member.
7. The harness of claim 1, wherein the breast stabilizer is made from an elastomeric material.
8. The harness of claim 1, wherein the circumference of the breast stabilizer is adjustable.
9. The harness of claim 1, wherein the human breast defines a base diameter and the through aperture is of a lesser diameter than the base diameter.
10. The harness of claim 1, wherein the base member further includes an elongated slit spaced from the through aperture.

11. The harness of claim 10, wherein the base member further includes a cover over the elongate slit.

12. The harness of claim 1, wherein the breast stabilizer further includes an adjustable circumferential clamp.

5 13. The harness of claim 12, wherein the clamp comprises an adjustable belt.

14. The harness of claim 12, wherein the clamp includes adjustable tabs.

10 15. The harness of claim 12, wherein the clamp mechanism comprises an inflatable bladder.

16. The harness of claim 12, wherein the clamp mechanism is manually adjustable.

17. The harness of claim 1, wherein the base member defines a plurality of apertures, the plurality of apertures being of different diameters.

15 18. The harness of claim 1, wherein the base member second surface includes a liner disposed thereon.

19. The harness of claim 18, wherein the liner is removable.

20. The harness of claim 18, wherein the liner is replaceable.

20 21. A harness comprising:  
a base member having a first surface and a second surface and a through aperture sized to receive a human breast therethrough;  
a breast stabilizer about the through aperture for radially compressing at least a portion of the breast sufficient to reduce systemic losses of lavage liquid during a ductal lavage procedure.

25 22. The harness of claim 21, where the base member comprises a torso band suitable for enveloping and securement about a torso of a human female patient, the torso band having a first end portion and a second end portion.

23. The harness of claim 22, wherein the first end portion of the torso band is engageable with the second end portion of the torso band.

30 24. The harness of claim 23, wherein the first end portion of the torso band is engageable with the second end portion of the torso band via engagement between the first surface and the second surface.

25. The harness of claim 24, wherein at least a portion of the second surface includes a web of entangled fibers and at least a portion of the first surface includes a plurality of flexible hooks, the plurality of flexible hooks being engageable with the web of entangled fibers.

5                   26. The harness of claim 21, wherein the breast stabilizer is integral with the base member.

27. The harness of claim 26, wherein the breast stabilizer is unitary with the base member.

10                   28. The harness of claim 21, wherein the breast stabilizer is made of an elastomeric material.

29. The harness of claim 21, wherein the breast stabilizer is adjustable.

15                   30. The harness of claim 21, wherein the human breast defines a base diameter and the through aperture is of a lesser diameter than the base diameter.

31. The harness of claim 21, wherein the base member further includes an elongated slit spaced from the through aperture.

32. The harness of claim 31, wherein the base member further includes a cover over the elongate slit.

20                   33. The harness of claim 21, wherein the breast stabilizer further includes an adjustable circumferential clamp.

34. The harness of claim 33, wherein the clamp is provided with an adjustable belt.

25                   35. The harness of claim 33, wherein the clamp includes adjustable tabs.

36. The harness of claim 33, wherein the clamp is an inflatable bladder circumscribing the through aperture.

37. The harness of claim 33, wherein the clamp is manually adjustable.

30                   38. The harness of claim 21, wherein the base member defines a plurality of apertures having different diameters.

39. The harness of claim 21, wherein the base member second surface includes a liner disposed thereon.

40. The harness of claim 39, wherein the liner is removable.

41. The harness of claim 39, wherein the liner is replaceable.

5 42. A kit for reducing system losses of lavage liquid during ductal lavage procedures, the kit comprising:

a harness comprising a base member having a first surface and a second surface, the base member defining a through aperture sized to receive a human breast therethrough, and the through aperture being at least partly circumscribed by a breast stabilizer for radially compressing at least a portion of the breast; and

instructional indicia.

43. The kit of 42, further including a catheter, a syringe, and a nipple orifice dilator.

15 44. A method for reducing systemic losses of lavage liquid during ductal lavage procedures utilizing a harness comprising a base member having a first surface and a second surface, the base member defining a through aperture sized to receive a human breast therethrough, and the through aperture being at least partly circumscribed by a breast stabilizer, the method comprising the steps of:

20 receiving the human breast through the through aperture;  
radially compressing at least a portion of the breast with the breast stabilizer; and

performing a ductal lavage procedure.

25 45. The method of claim 44 further comprising adjusting the compression on the portion of the breast.

46. The method of claim 44, wherein the step of performing a ductal lavage procedure comprises introducing a rinsing solution into a mammary ducts, and recovering at least a portion of the solution from the mammary ducts.

30 47. A method for reducing systemic losses of lavage liquid during ductal lavage procedures, the method comprising the steps of:  
applying circumferential pressure to a human breast about a base of the breast;

introducing the lavage liquid to a mammary duct in the breast; and  
collecting at least a portion of the lavage liquid from the breast.

- 5      48.      The method of claim 48, wherein the step of applying  
circumferential pressure to the human breast about the base of the breast is  
conducted utilizing a harness comprising a base member having a first surface and a  
second surface, the base member defining a through aperture sized to receive a  
human breast therethrough, and the through aperture being at least partly  
circumscribed by a breast stabilizer.